KID COLT OUTLAW

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

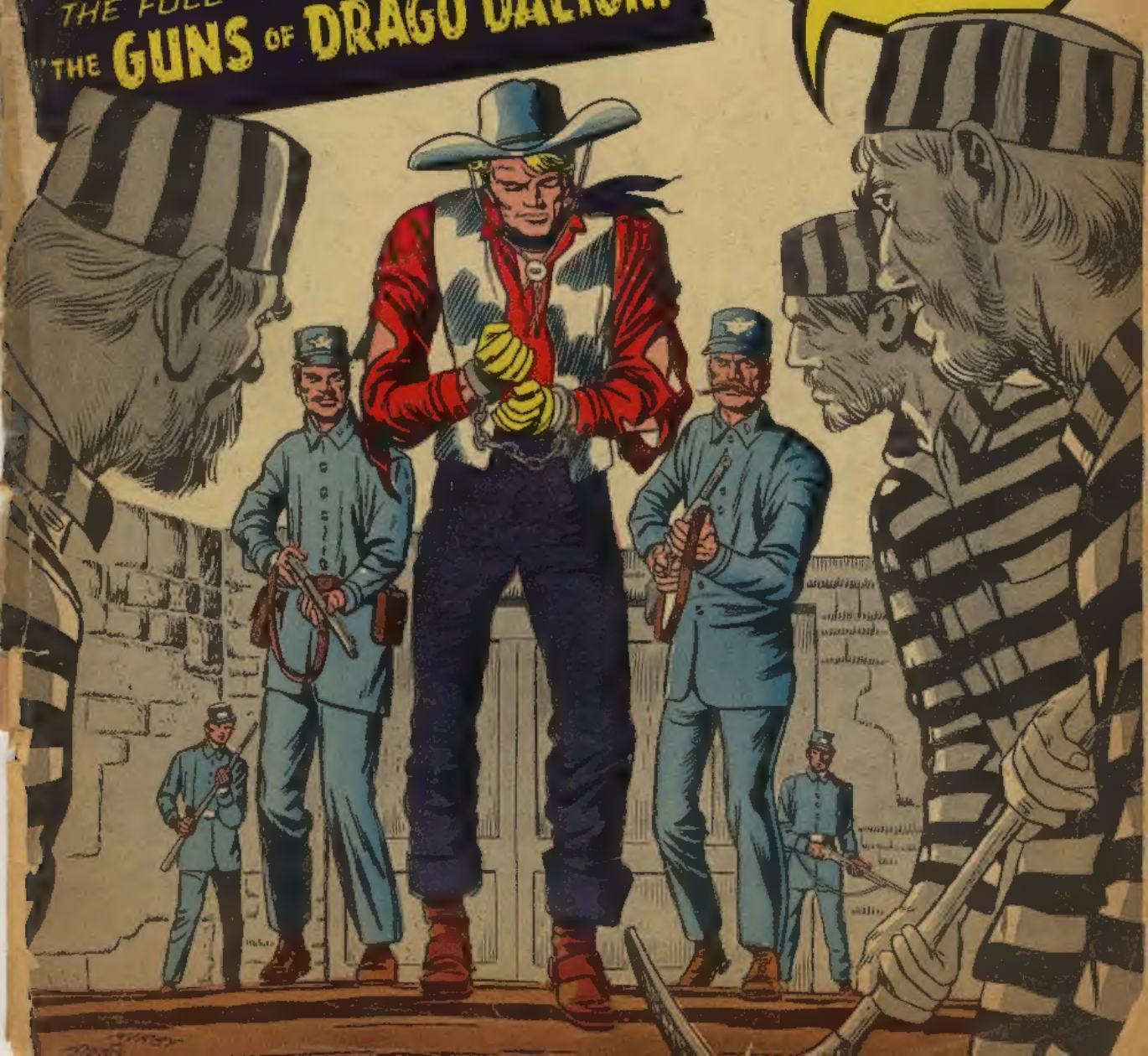
97 MAR.

10c

HAS THE KID FINALLY REACHED THE END OF HIS ROPE? DON'T MISS THE FULL-LENGTH THRILLER...

"THE GUNS OF DRAGO DALTON!"

THIS IS THE CHANCE WE BEEN *WAITIN'* FOR! THE KID'LL NEVER LEAVE HERE *ALIVE!*



The Lone Ranger, a Jack Wrather Production, seen every week over TV and sponsored by General Mills Cereals.

DRAW THE LONE RANGER!

Contest Prize:
$495.00 Scholarship in Commercial Art

Draw the Lone Ranger any size you want except a size that would look like a tracing. Use pencil. Everyone who enters this contest gets a professional estimate of his talent without charge. Winner receives a complete course in advertising art, magazine illustrating, cartooning, or landscape or portrait painting.

Try for this free art course from the world's largest home study art school. Students of this school are taught, individually, by professional artists. Illustrated art textbooks cover both basic and advanced training. Many former students now earn upwards from $150 a week as commercial artists. Some earn $25,000 a year.

Purpose of contest is to uncover talent that could be developed for art careers. Show what you can do! Send your drawing of the Lone Ranger. Entries for March 1961 contest due by March 31. None returned. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Winner notified. Start your entry today.

Use 1 coupon—then pass this page on to a friend.

1. ART INSTRUCTION, INC. Studio 12940
500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minnesota
Please enter my drawing in your draw-a-head contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____
Occupation_____ AGE____
Address_____ Apt.____
City_____ Zone____
County_____ State____

2. ART INSTRUCTION, INC. Studio 12940
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KID COLT, OUTLAW

"the GUNS of DRAGO DALTON!"

LOOK! IT'S KID COLT!
SOMEONE GIT THE SHERIFF!
GIT OFF THE STREETS! THERE'LL BE TROUBLE FOR SURE!
DUCK FOR COVER!
JUST WHAT I WAS AFEARED OF! I'VE BEEN RECOGNIZED! I'VE GOT TO MAKE TRACKS, FAST!
DROP THEM GUNS, KID! YOU AIN'T A'GOIN' NOWHERE! THIS IS THE LAW TALKIN'!
SHERIFF

CHAPTER ONE: "THE TRAP IS SPRUNG!"

Stan Lee
JACK KELLER

YOU HEERD ME, KID! COME OFFA THAT HOSS PEACEABLE ...OR ELSE!
IF I SURRENDER NOW, IT'LL MEAN YEARS IN JAIL FOR ME! ONLY ONE THING TO DO--
YAHOO! STEEL! KICK, BOY! KICK!
YUH DID IT, BOY! YUH DID IT! NOW RUN! RUN FOR ALL WE'RE WORTH!
YUH BLAMED FOOLS! WHY DIDN'T NO ONE STOP 'IM??
STOP KID COLT?!!
SHERIFF, WE AIN'T PAID TO TANGLE WITH NO HUMAN TORNADOS!
WE MADE IT, STEEL! WE'RE FREE! BUT I DON'T RECKON IT'S MUCH OF A FREEDOM WE GOT! AIN'T NO PLACE WE CAN RUN TO-- NO PLACE TO TURN! WHEREVER WE GO, IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME--THE CRY IS SHOUTED, AND THE CHASE IS ON! WHERE WILL IT END, BOY? WHERE?
LOOK, DRAGO! IT'S HIM!
AIN'T HAD NO RIFLE PRACTICE IN A SPELL! HERE'S MUH CHANCE!

LOOK OUT, STEEL! SOMEONE IN THOSE HILLS HAS US IN HIS SIGHTS!
TWANNNNNNG!
LUCKY HIS FIRST SHOT MISSED ME! HE WON'T GET A SECOND CHANCE!
CAN'T BE ANYONE FROM THE POSSE! I LEFT 'EM MILES BEHIND ME! BUT WHOEVER IT IS, I'LL TEACH 'IM TO AMBUSH KID COLT!
DID YOU GIT 'IM, DRAGO?
I DUNNO! IT'S TOO BLAMED HARD TO SEE THRU THESE TREES!
I'LL END THE SUSPENSE, HOMBRES! YUH MISSED ME! NOW DROP THEM IRONS, PRONTO!
HUH?
LOOK! IT'S KID COLT!
DRAGO DALTON! AND YORE BOYS!
I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT!

RECKON WE OUGHTTA PUT OUR HANDS DOWN, KID! AIN'T NEVER HEARD TELL OF YOU SHOOTIN' NOBODY IN COLD BLOOD!
THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME, DRAGO, IF YUH MAKE ONE FALSE MOVE! I'M GONNA TIE YUH UP AND LEAVE YUH HERE FOR THE LAW!
YORE WASTIN' YORE TIME, KID! THE LAW DON'T WANT US!
YORE LOCO! THERE'S BEEN WARRANTS OUT FOR YOU JASPERS FOR OVER A YEAR!
SURE, BUT NOT NO MORE! LOOK--
I WARNED YUH! NO FALSE MOVES!
OWW!
TAKE IT EASY, KID! HE WUZ ONLY FIXIN' TO SHOW YUH THAT PIECE OF PAPER!
BLAM!
IT'S A PARDON! BUT HOW? WHY?
EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD, KID! WE GAVE OURSELVES UP, SERVED OUR TIME, AND NOW WE'RE FREE! WE DIDN'T GIT MUCH OF A SENTENCE BECAUSE WE SURRENDERED OF OUR OWN FREE WILL!
OFFICIAL STATE PARDON
I-I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!
WE GOT NO FIGHT, KID! LET'S HAVE SOME JAVA TOGETHER!
THINK HE BELIEVED US, DRAGO?
SHUT UP, YUH FOOL--HE'LL HEAR YUH!
4

WHY DIDN'T I EVER THINK OF THAT AFORE? IF I GIVE UP OF MY OWN FREE WILL, IT'LL GO EASY WITH ME! AND ONCE I'VE SERVED MY TIME, I'LL BE A FREE MAN! NO MORE RUNNING! NO MORE HIDING!
GOT NO MORE TIME FOR COFFEE! I GOT THINGS TO DO!
IT WORKED, DRAGO!
SURE IT DID! DRAGO DALTON CAN OUT-SMART ANY HOMBRE, EVEN KID COLT! NOW FOR THE NEXT PART OF MUH PLAN!
MEANWHILE...
THIS IS SOMETHIN' I SHOULDA DONE YEARS AGO!
LOOK! IT'S KID COLT! HE'S RETURNED!
MUST BE A SHOWDOWN! CLEAR THE STREETS!
LOOK AT 'IM GO!
HE'S HEADIN' FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE!
SHERIFF! THE KID'S BACK! HE'S A'HEADIN' THIS WAY!
TAKE COVER! I'LL HANDLE THIS!
REWARD
WANTED
5

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

WARPATH

THE country had once been Indian country. For a hundred miles north and two hundred miles to east and west, the whole vast land had belonged to the Miute Indians, once a fierce and warlike tribe. For two decades they had sat astride the buffalo trails, living in their small, temporary villages on the wide, grassy plains, moving here and there as the big game moved, much as they had for many thousands of years before.

Then the white man came. The Miute Indians were brave The white man offered money in exchange for lands. For awhile, the Miutes held out because warlike chiefs counselled resistance and conflict. There were, in fact, at least a dozen clashes between the whites and the Miutes before each side became thoroughly convinced that both sides were getting nowhere by flying at each other. Then a final council of whites and Miutes around a campfire was held. The pipe of peace was passed about, and, after much palaver a settlement was reached. The Miutes were to have a reservation vast enough in extent to support their tribes. For their part, the whites paid for open roads further West.

Once this was done, settlers poured in, some of them stopping off at fertile spots and founding towns. The largest of these became Bardsboro.

Bardsboro touched the Miute reservation at only two points. In the thirty years of its existence, there had been no trouble between the Indians and the whites. Not, in fact, until one morning during a hot July when the annual Indian Dance festival had been going on in all the villages of the Miute nation for several days.

Laird Rance, owner of the big Triple R spread, came out at dawn on a Thursday to see to the shoeing of his favorite horse. He watched the waddy at the forge heat up the shoes, but left for a stroll before they were tempered, quenched and hammered fast. He went out onto the small hill that rose like a loaf of bread at the west end of the ranchyard. There were trees planted here and there, and Rance enjoyed the cool rustling of the morning wind through their creaking boughs. He had walked out from the forge empty-handed.

He came back carrying an Indian war arrow . . . a Miute arrow. He had seen it sticking in one of the trees like a twigless branch. Two days before he had seen another just like it lying on the ground. This he had picked up and put away casually as a possibly historical find. But the arrow that had stuck into the tree was somewhat different. Around its head were some brightly colored feathers on a length of thong; and it was piercing, by its sharp iron arrow-head a bit of bark on which was inscribed a sign well known in that region; the Miute Indian sign of war.

Rance stood outside the forge for a moment, looking at the arrow. Then he went into the small toolshed to one side, and got the other arrow. He wrapped both arrows in paper, got his horse from the forge and rode into Bardsboro to see Sheriff Mark Salter.

Salter greeted him cordially at his office.

"Long time no see, Laird," he commented.

"Been busy, Mark," the rancher said. He laid the bundle on the sheriff's desk and unwrapped it; he plucked out the arrows and laid them before Salter.

Mark Salter peered at them, his eyes narrowing.

"Where did you get them?" he asked.

Laird Rance explained.

For a moment, Salter was silent. Then he opened the bottom drawer of his desk and took out another arrow. Like the second one Rance had found, it transfixed a bit of bark, and on the bark was inscribed the Miute sign of war.

"Jud Miller found that last night," Salter said, "Same story as yours . . . found it in his ranchyard, way out back."

Rance sighed.

"I figured something was up," he said. "Well, that war sign on both the pieces of bark is interesting enough, even without the arrows." He shrugged. "I can't figure it. You think it has something to do with the Injun dances on the reservation?"

"What makes you think that?"

"Well, Injuns are funny folks," Rance replied. "They usually hold dances before going on the warpath, don't they?"

Salter smiled.

CONTINUED

BOYS, GIRLS, MEN, WOMEN

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YOU CAN MAKE AT LEAST $50.00 -MORE LIKELY $100.00 to $200.00 IN YOUR SPARE TIME!

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Churches, clubs, veterans' auxiliaries, etc. can now add hundreds of dollars to their treasuries with these fast sellers. Give organization name on coupon for Fund-Raising Plan. Mail coupon NOW!

SEND NO MONEY Paste Coupon on postcard or mail in envelope

Wallace Brown, Inc., Dept. J-47
11 E. 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

Send 2 All-Occasion Greeting Card Assortments on approval, plus FREE colorful Catalog with more money makers—and include simple money-making plan..

Name_____

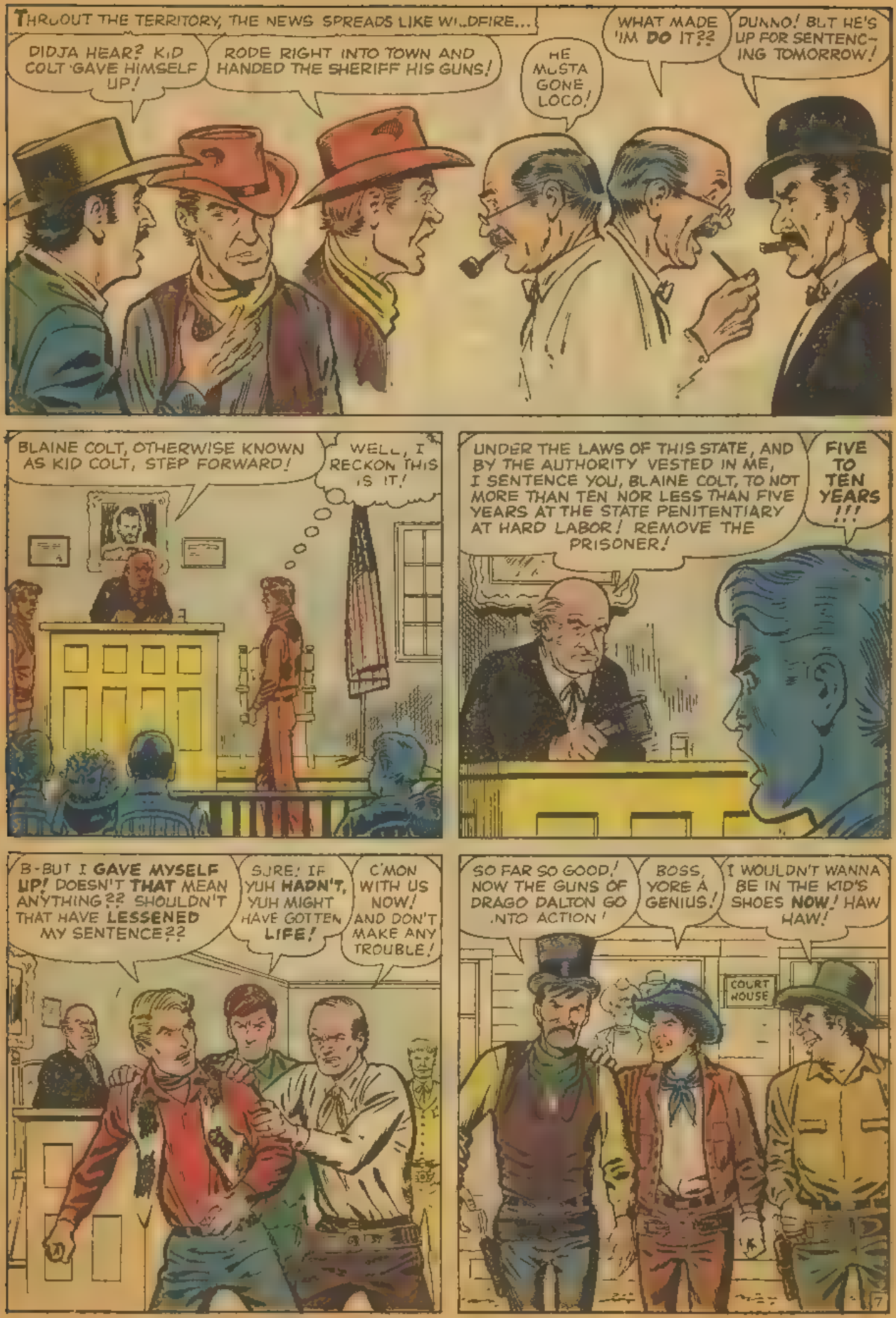
Address_____

City & Zone_____ State_____

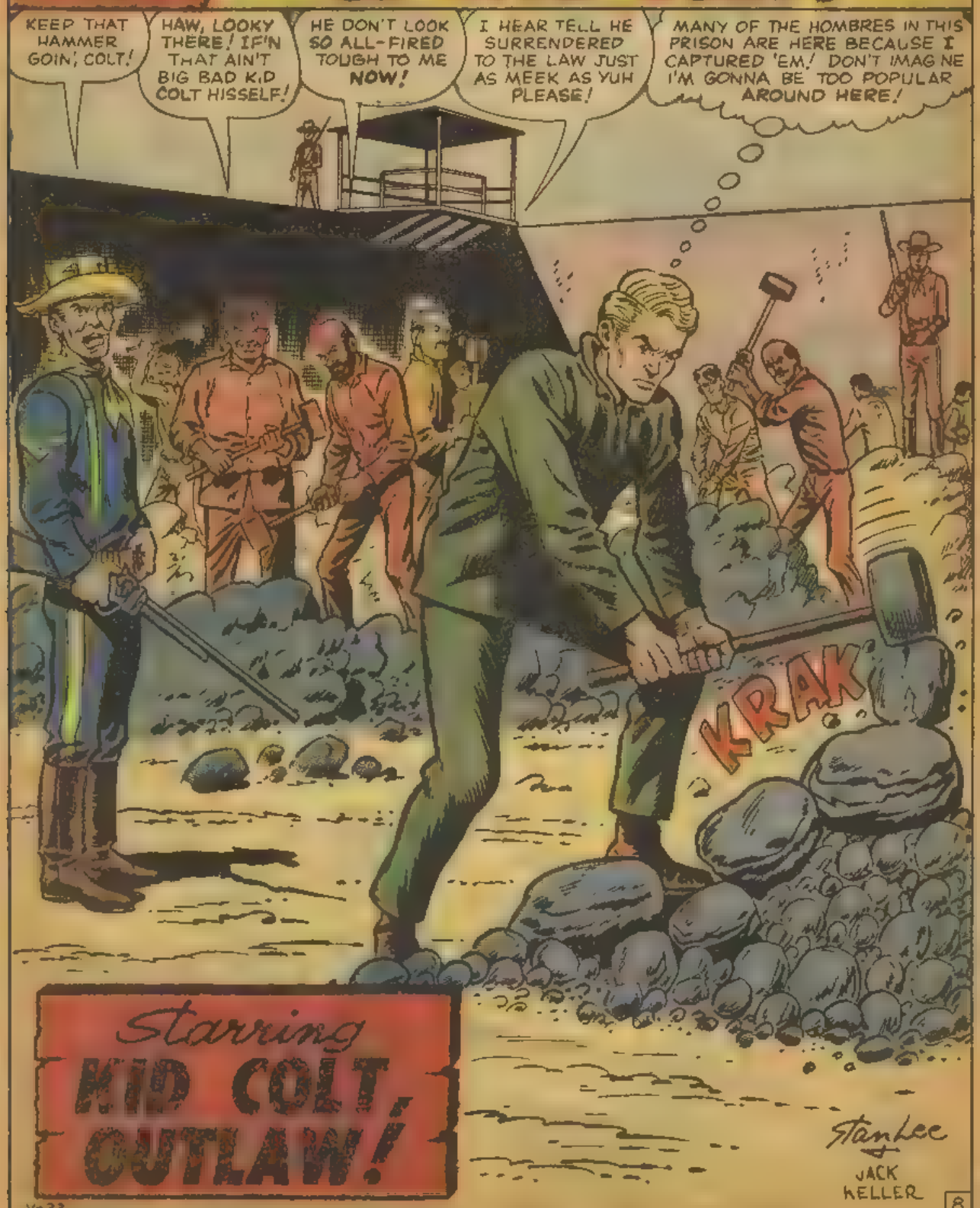
If writing for an organization, give its name_____

Wallace Brown, Inc. 11 East 26th St. Dept. J-47 New York 10, New York

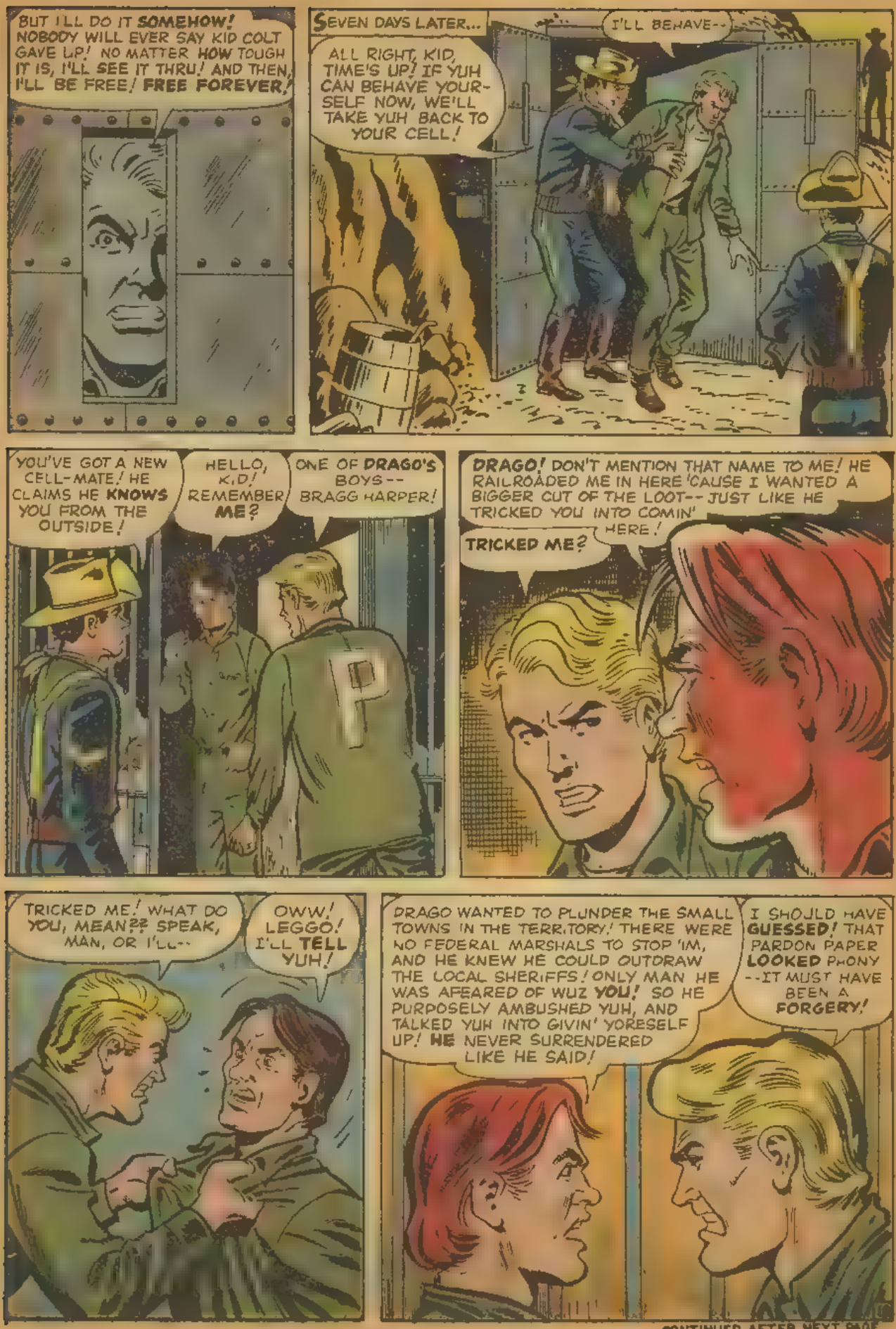
HERE HE COMES!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND I'LL DROP YUH, KID!
HOLD IT, SHERIFF! I AIN'T A'LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE!
BLAM
WHA-WHAT ARE YUH GONNA DO?
THIS!
I'M YORE PRISONER, SHERIFF!
WHAT IS THIS? A TRICK?!!
NEVER SEEN THE LIKE!
HE OUT-GUNS THE LAW, THEN HE GIVES HISSELF UP!
6


THROUT THE TERRITORY, THE NEWS SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE...
DIDJA HEAR? KID COLT GAVE HIMSELF UP!
RODE RIGHT INTO TOWN AND HANDED THE SHERIFF HIS GUNS!
HE MUSTA GONE LOCO!
WHAT MADE 'IM DO IT??
DUNNO! BUT HE'S UP FOR SENTENCING TOMORROW!
BLAINE COLT, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS KID COLT, STEP FORWARD!
WELL, I RECKON THIS IS IT!
UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS STATE, AND BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME, I SENTENCE YOU, BLAINE COLT, TO NOT MORE THAN TEN NOR LESS THAN FIVE YEARS AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY AT HARD LABOR! REMOVE THE PRISONER!
FIVE TO TEN YEARS !!!
B-BUT I GAVE MYSELF UP! DOESN'T THAT MEAN ANYTHING?? SHOULDN'T THAT HAVE LESSENED MY SENTENCE??
SURE! IF YUH HADN'T, YUH MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN LIFE!
C'MON WITH US NOW! AND DON'T MAKE ANY TROUBLE!
SO FAR SO GOOD! NOW THE GUNS OF DRAGO DALTON GO INTO ACTION!
BOSS, YORE A GENIUS!
I WOULDN'T WANNA BE IN THE KID'S SHOES NOW! HAW HAW!
COURT HOUSE
7

CHAPTER 2 "THE TERRIBLE VENGEANCE OF KID COLT!"


KEEP THAT HAMMER GOIN', COLT!
HAW, LOOKY THERE! IF'N THAT AIN'T BIG BAD KID COLT HISSELF!
HE DON'T LOOK SO ALL-FIRED TOUGH TO ME NOW!
I HEAR TELL HE SURRENDERED TO THE LAW JUST AS MEEK AS YUH PLEASE!
MANY OF THE HOMBRES IN THIS PRISON ARE HERE BECAUSE I CAPTURED 'EM! DON'T IMAG NE I'M GONNA BE TOO POPULAR AROUND HERE!
KRAK
Starring KID COLT, OUTLAW!
Stan Lee
JACK KELLER

SAY, KID, WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?
WHERE?
THERE! DON'TCHA SEE IT?
LOOK AT ALL THOSE ROCKS, KID! DO YUH THINK YOU'RE TOO GOOD TO DO YOUR SHARE OF THE WORK???
HUH? BUT I DID --OH! THAT'S WHY THEY TOLD ME TO TURN AROUND!
TRY TO GET ME IN TROUBLE, WILL YUH?
UGH!
THEY WARNED US YOU'D BE A TROUBLE-MAKER, KID!
THIS'LL MEAN A WEEK IN SOLITARY FOR YOU!
LET ME AT HIM! I'LL SHOW H M WHAT IT MEANS TO RIDE KID COLT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
A WEEK IN SOLITARY! AT LEAST FIVE YEARS TO SERVE IN PRISON-- WITH THE OTHER PRISONERS GUNNIN' FOR ME EVERY MINUTE! HOW WILL I EVER DO IT??? WHY DID I LISTEN TO DRAGO??
9


BUT I'LL DO IT SOMEHOW! NOBODY WILL EVER SAY KID COLT GAVE UP! NO MATTER HOW TOUGH IT IS, I'LL SEE IT THRU! AND THEN, I'LL BE FREE! FREE FOREVER!
SEVEN DAYS LATER...
I'LL BEHAVE--
ALL RIGHT, KID, TIME'S UP! IF YUH CAN BEHAVE YOURSELF NOW, WE'LL TAKE YUH BACK TO YOUR CELL!
YOU'VE GOT A NEW CELL-MATE! HE CLAIMS HE KNOWS YOU FROM THE OUTSIDE!
HELLO, KID! REMEMBER ME?
ONE OF DRAGO'S BOYS -- BRAGG HARPER!
DRAGO! DON'T MENTION THAT NAME TO ME! HE RAILROADED ME IN HERE 'CAUSE I WANTED A BIGGER CUT OF THE LOOT-- JUST LIKE HE TRICKED YOU INTO COMIN' HERE!
TRICKED ME?
TRICKED ME! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?? SPEAK, MAN, OR I'LL--
OWW! LEGGO! I'LL TELL YUH!
DRAGO WANTED TO PLUNDER THE SMALL TOWNS IN THE TERRITORY! THERE WERE NO FEDERAL MARSHALS TO STOP 'IM, AND HE KNEW HE COULD OUTDRAW THE LOCAL SHERIFFS! ONLY MAN HE WAS AFEARED OF WUZ YOU! SO HE PURPOSELY AMBUSHED YUH, AND TALKED YUH INTO GIVIN' YORESELF UP! HE NEVER SURRENDERED LIKE HE SAID!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED! THAT PARDON PAPER LOOKED PHONY --IT MUST HAVE BEEN A FORGERY!

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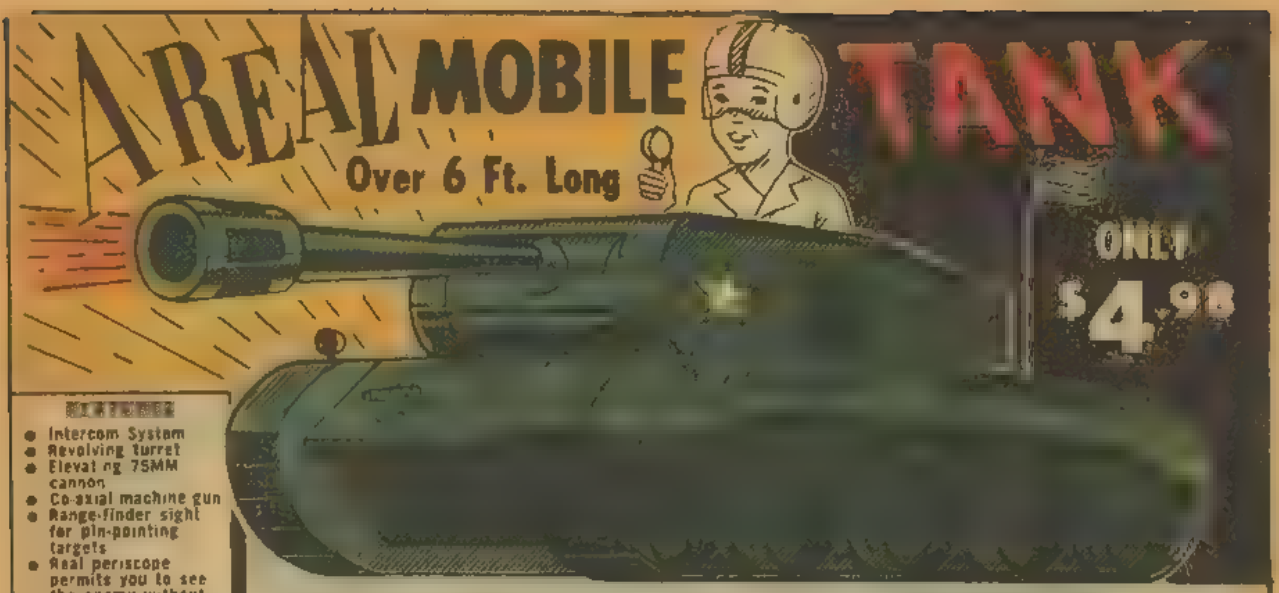
A REAL MOBILE TANK

Over 6 Ft. Long



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- Revolving turret
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Large Enough for Two Kids But Can Be Handled By One

It's Mobile — Pilot gets INSIDE — Guns Swivel — Turret Turns

Imagine your thrill when you get inside this authentic replica of the mighty General Sherman tank and power forward to adventure. This six foot hunk of equipment is so realistic with its mighty cannon swiveling machine gun, simulated treads and other authentic tank features that it's bound to bring squeals of delight from any young warrior. And when you and a pal get right down into the fully equipped control room and close the cockpit cover you can feel you're using your mobile power to devastate every imaginary enemy in your path. Sturdily constructed for long periods of fun. It's bound to bring more thrills and adventure than you've ever known from a toy. So don't delay! Act now. Only $4.98. Because of its gigantic size we are forced to ask for an additional 63c shipping charges.

10 Day Free Trial

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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

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Rush my "General Sherman" Tank at once. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return after 10 day free trial for prompt refund of full purchase price.

☐ I enclose $4.98 plus 63c shipping charge.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

Name .....
Address .....

AMAZING WRIST RADIO

PRIVATE EAR PHONE

Wow! A wrist radio, that really works. Play detective like the ones in the famous cartoons. Yes, imagine receiving standard broadcasts up to about 50 miles. Tuning in your favorite station and getting years of listening pleasure. This is your own personal wrist radio that permits you to listen to your favorite program without disturbing others. And, there are no batteries, no electricity, no tubes—nothing to wear out. Works on a permanent germanium diode. And, think what fun it is playing games, pretending to transmit messages, and getting help in the nick of time.

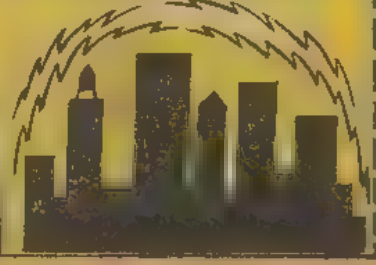
You're sure to be the leader of the gang now! Complete with private earphone and easy to connect antenna. Only $2.98 plus 36¢ shipping charge. Don't delay! Order now.

- Receives Broadcast Up to 50 Miles
- WEAR It Like A Watch—Listen In Like A Radio
- Plays for Years Without Electricity or Batteries

$2.98

10 DAY FREE TRIAL

Order this sensational Wrist Radio on 10 Day Free Trial. If you are not 100% delighted simply return to us for prompt refund of full purchase price.



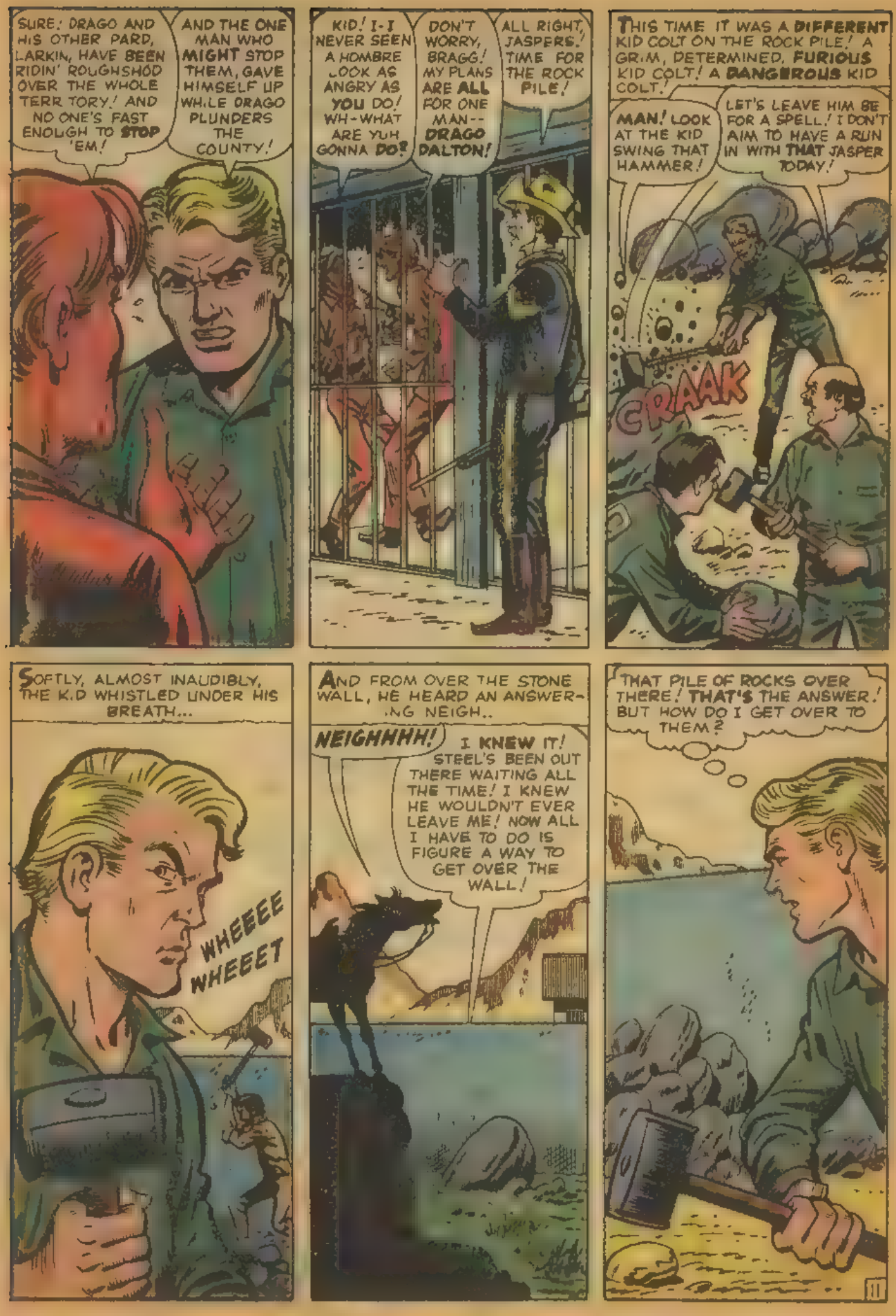
Money Back Guarantee

HONOR HOUSE PROD. CORP.
LYNBROOK, NEW YORK Dept WR-60

Rush me my Wrist Radio on 10 Day Free Trial at once. If not 100% delighted I may return for prompt refund of full purchase price.

☐ I enclose $2.98 plus 36¢ shipping charge.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

Name .....
Address .....


SURE! DRAGO AND HIS OTHER PARD, LARKIN, HAVE BEEN RIDIN' ROUGHSHOD OVER THE WHOLE TERR TORY! AND NO ONE'S FAST ENOUGH TO STOP 'EM!
AND THE ONE MAN WHO MIGHT STOP THEM, GAVE HIMSELF UP WHILE DRAGO PLUNDERS THE COUNTY!
KID! I-I NEVER SEEN A HOMBRE LOOK AS ANGRY AS YOU DO! WH-WHAT ARE YUH GONNA DO?
DON'T WORRY, BRAGG! MY PLANS ARE ALL FOR ONE MAN-- DRAGO DALTON!
ALL RIGHT, JASPERS! TIME FOR THE ROCK PILE!
THIS TIME IT WAS A DIFFERENT KID COLT ON THE ROCK PILE! A GRIM, DETERMINED, FURIOUS KID COLT! A DANGEROUS KID COLT!
MAN! LOOK AT THE KID SWING THAT HAMMER!
LET'S LEAVE HIM BE FOR A SPELL! I DON'T AIM TO HAVE A RUN IN WITH THAT JASPER TODAY!
CRAAK
SOFTLY, ALMOST INAUDIBLY, THE K.D WHISTLED UNDER HIS BREATH...
WHEEEE WHEEET
AND FROM OVER THE STONE WALL, HE HEARD AN ANSWER-ING NEIGH..
NEIGHHHH!
I KNEW IT! STEEL'S BEEN OUT THERE WAITING ALL THE TIME! I KNEW HE WOULDN'T EVER LEAVE ME! NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIGURE A WAY TO GET OVER THE WALL!
THAT PILE OF ROCKS OVER THERE! THAT'S THE ANSWER! BUT HOW DO I GET OVER TO THEM?
11

NO ONE'S LOOKIN'! NOW'S MY CHANCE!
CRRRASH!
WHAT WAS THAT??
WHERE?
OVER THERE!
IT'S NOW OR NEVER!
LOOK! AT THE OTHER WALL! THE KID!
I'LL GIT 'IM!
TOO LATE! YUH MISSED! HE VAULTED OVER FROM ATOP THAT ROCK PILE!
MADE IT!
KRAACK!
BEFORE ANY OF THE GUARDS COULD REACH THEIR OWN MOUNTS, LIKE GREY GHOSTS THE KID AND HIS MIGHTY STALLION WERE DISAPPEARING INTO THE GATHERING TWILIGHT!
AND NOW FOR DRAGO DALTON!
LESS THAN THREE DAYS LATER...
DON'T GO FOR YORE GUN OR YORE A GONER, SHERIFF!
DRAGO DALTON!
I CAME BY TO THANK YUH FOR ARRESTIN' THE ONE HOMBRE WHO MIGHTA STOPPED ME, SHERIFF! AND NOW I'M GONNA MAKE SURE THAT YUH NEVER TRY TO ARREST ME LIKE YUH DID KID COLT!
SQUEEZE THAT TRIGGER, DRAGO, AND YORE A DEAD MAN!
THE KID!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE!
I'LL GIT 'IM!
12

BETTER HOMBRES THAN YOU HAVE TRIED IT, LARKIN!
BLAM!
THAT WAS YORE BIGGEST MISTAKE, KID! NOW I'LL GIT YUH!
LOOK OUT, KID!
AND THAT WAS YORE BIGGEST MISTAKE, DRAGO! AND YORE LAST!
BUT NO BULLET CAN GIVE THE SATISFACTION I'LL GET BY FEELING MY FIST HIT YOUR SCHEMING FACE!
UGH!
KID, I RECKON I OWE YUH A REAL APOLOGY! I NEVER REALIZED THAT-- KID! KID! WHERE ARE YUH?
GUESS I WAS NEVER CUT OUT TO SERVE MY TIME AND THEN BE FREE! I RECKON IT'LL BE AN OUTLAW'S LIFE FOR ME, FOREVER! BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE MUH GUNS, AND MUH HORSE, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THE DRAGO DALTONS AND HIS ILK WHEREVER I FIND 'EM!
SHERIFF
13
WHAT A SHAME! IF HE'D ONLY HAVE COME BACK, I'D HAVE DONE WHAT I COULD TO GET HIM A PARDON! BUT NOW, HE'S MADE THINGS WORSE FOR HIMSELF! BUT I RECKON FATE HAD OTHER PLANS FOR KID COLT-- WHICH NO MERE MAN CAN UNDERSTAND! ADIOS, KID! VAYA CON DIOS!

The END

'SWINGINGEST' WAY TO SAVE!

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Name .....

Address .....

City .....State.....

WANTED!
IT IS NIGHT IN THE SMALL FRONTIER TOWN OF FARGO FALLS! A LONE SINISTER FIGURE PROWLS NEAR THE TOWN BANK, AS A SHARP, COMMANDING VOICE RINGS OUT...
WHAT ARE YUH DOIN' IN THAT ALLEY NEAR THE BANK, MISTER? TURN AROUND SLOW AND RAISE YOUR HANDS!
THE SHERIFF!
FARGO FALLS BANK
BANK
BILL REINMAN #1-42

UNEXPECTEDLY, THE MAN IN THE SHADOWS WHEELS ABOUT, FIRING AS HE DOES SO!
NO LAWMAN'S GONNA TAKE BAT HOGAN,
HOGAN. YUH FOOL --UGHH!
I WINGED 'IM! BY THE TIME HE RECOVERS, I'LL HAVE THIS LOCK FILED DOWN AND BE OUTTA TOWN WITH THE BANK'S LOOT!
MADE IT!
CRASH!
COME TO BAT HOGAN, YOU PURTY LITTLE GREENBACKS! HAW! HAW!
MEANWHILE, JUST OUTSIDE THE BANK, A GRIM, SILENT FIGURE SLOWLY, PAINFULLY DRAWS HIS COLT...
JUST--A--TTLE--BIT FURTHER--
HOGAN, DROP THAT MONEY!
THE SHERIFF! HOW--?
FARGO FALLS BANK

I--
OHHH...
HE'S FAINTED! HAW, MUH LUCK'S HOLDIN' OUT! AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA STOP ME NOW!
I'LL BE SAFE IN THE HILLS AFORE MORNIN'!
AND, WITH THE RISING SUN...
IT'S THE SHERIFF!
THE BANK'S BEEN ROBBED!
THE THIEF MUSTA SHOT THE SHERIFF!
HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! HE'S JUST WEAK NOW!
IT WAS HOGAN-- BAT HOGAN!
EASY, SHERIFF! WE'LL GIT HIM FOR YUH--I SWEAR IT!
HERE ARE THE LOW-DOWN BUSHWACKER'S TRACKS, BOYS! LEADIN' INTO THE HILLS!
LET'S RIDE!
YAHOO!
AT THAT TIME, IN THE LOCAL PRINTING OFFICE...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY, HOGAN! THEY NEVER DO!
WANTED
BAT HOGAN
FOR BANK ROBBERY
ASSAULT UPON A LAWMAN.
HE'S DANGER
3

MEANWHILE, IN THE DISTANT HILLS BORDERING FARGO FALLS, A PAIR OF COLD CALCULATING EYES SCAN THE HORIZON...
JUDGIN' BY THE SIZE OF THAT DUST CLOUD, THERE'S A BIGGER POSSE ON MUH TRAIL THAN I FIGGERED ON! I BETTER MAKE TRACKS, PRONTO!
HAW! THEY GOT POSTERS UP FOR ME ALREADY! AT LAST I'M SOMEBODY! RECKON FOLKS'LL HAVE NEW RESPECT FOR ME NOW WHEN THEY SEE ME!
WANTED
BAT HOGAN
I'LL HEAD FOR NACE PARKER'S SPREAD! HE WUZ ALWAYS FRIENDLY WITH ME! RECKON HE'LL HIDE ME OUT FOR A SPELL!
THERE'S NACE NOW, IN THE DOORWAY! BUT WHAT'S HE HOLDIN' THAT SHOTGUN FOR?
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, HOGAN!
HOLD ON, HOMBRE! WHAT'S WRONG? YOU GONE LOCO??
NO, HOGAN, YOU HAVE! COME A STEP CLOSER AND MUH NEXT SHOT WON'T MISS!
DON'T SHOOT! I'M YORE FRIEND! I'LL GO-- BUT DON'T SHOOT!
YOU AIN'T NOBODY'S FRIEND, HOMBRE! YOU'RE AN OUTLAW! YOU'RE NOTHIN'!
4

WHAT'LL I DO? THE POSSE'S BEHIND ME! I CAN'T GO THRU TOWN! I CAN'T RETURN TO THE HILLS! WAIT--I KNOW! I'LL HEAD FOR GOLD-DUST SMITH! I DONE HIM A FAVOR ONCE! HE'S MOST LIKELY STILL WORKIN AT HIS CLAIM!
AND SO, A FEW HECTIC HOURS LATER...
GOLD-DUST! IT'S ME! BAT HOGAN! I--I NEED HELP!
I KNOW! I SEEN THE POSTERS! GIT OFFA MUH CLAIM!
I SAID GIT OFF! I DON'T AIM TO BE YORE NEXT VICTIM!
NO, YUH OLD FOOL! DON'T! I--UGHH!
LOOK! OVER YONDER! IT'S HIM!
I GOTTA GIT AWAY! CAN'T LET THEM CATCH ME NOW!
GOT 'M!
I COULDA MADE IT-- BUT NOBODY WOULD HELP ME! NOBODY WOULD HELP ME!
EVERYONE TURNED AWAY FROM ME! THEY'RE ALL DOUBLE-CROSSIN' JACKALS! ALL OF 'EM!
NO, BAT, YOU'RE THE JACKAL! WHEN A MAN TURNS OUT-LAW, HE'S THE DOUBLE-CROSSER! HE DOUBLE-CROSSES SOCIETY AND THE LAWS THAT PROTECT IT!
WANT
BAT HO
THERE'S YOUR REWARD POSTER, BAT! STILL PROUD OF IT?? OR DO YOU REALIZE WHAT A FOOL YOU WERE! WHAT FOOLS ALL BADMEN ARE!
5

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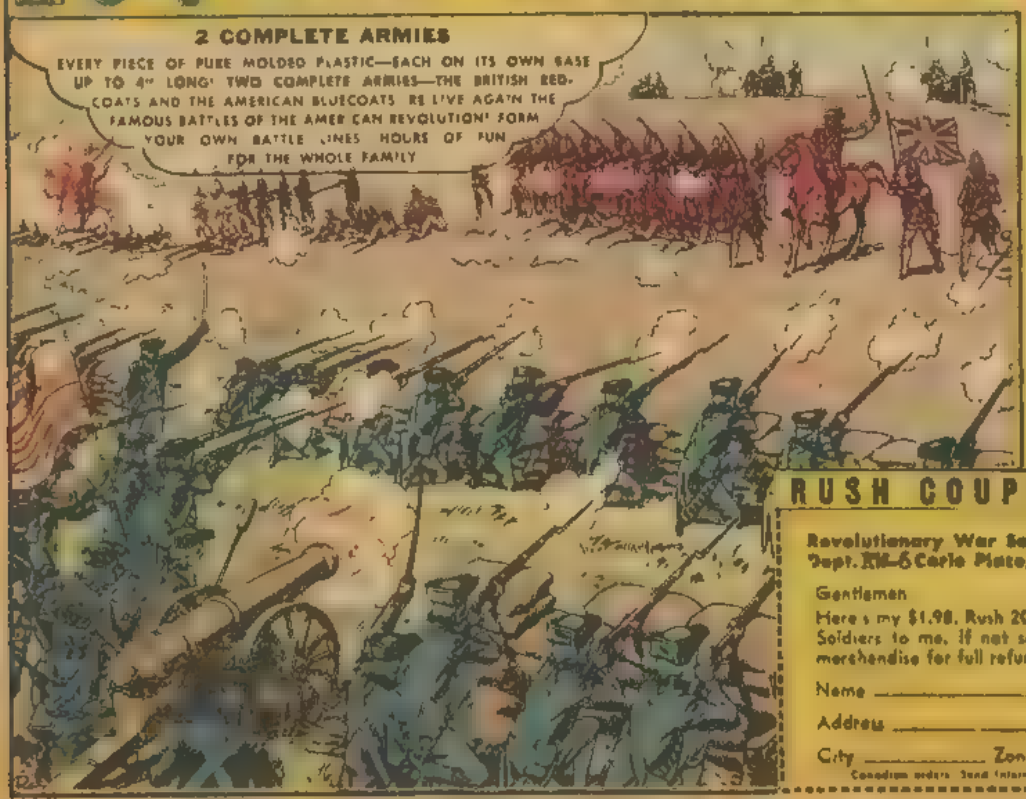
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CONTINUED

"They used to," he admitted. "But you're wrong when you think Injuns are just funny folk. They have their customs like anybody else. Those dances over in the reservation are just customs."

Rance's eyes narrowed.

"There's still the arrows," he said. "And they've been found on two spreads, mine and Jud Miller's. The first arrow I thought nothing of, except that it might be a relic. But the second one, and now this third one of Jud's . . ." He paused, significantly. "You don't fire arrows around just for fun . . . not arrows with a war symbol on them."

"I hardly think the Miutes are going on the warpath," the sheriff said, skeptically. "They've been at peace for quite a long time, now, and they wouldn't stand much of a chance against Winchesters. Besides, what reasons would they have?"

Rance shook his head. "Hard to figure," he said, dubiously. "But it might be resentment at some fancied or real slight in the past. And you know how fond the Injuns are of secret societies. Maybe some secret society has gotten together and planned going on the warpath. I admit any Injun war that broke out wouldn't last long . . . but it could be very damaging in the meantime."

Sheriff Salter considered this for a moment.

"Maybe you're right, maybe you're wrong. I'm inclined to think you're wrong," he said. "Besides, this is the Injun festival season, and I think it would be bad policy to interrupt their councils and festivities. Tell you what, though . . . I'll drop around and investigate after the end of ceremonies. That'll be in four days. That's what I told Jud Miller."

Laird Rance rose.

"Okay," he said. "But just remember that any trouble that may occur will be your responsibility. If you act now, you could call in troops from Fort Sedger."

"Kinda expensive calling five hundred men in from two hundred miles away, just on suspicion."

"Even more expensive if the suspicion turns out to be correct."

"I'll chance it," the sheriff

said. "I'm pretty sure there's some good explanation behind all this."

Four days passed. Every night, both Jud Miller and Laird Rance put up their shutters and alerted the bunkhouse crews to any possible attack. On the morning of the fourth day, Rance saw Sheriff Salter ride by on his way to the Miute reservation.

It was toward five o'clock in the evening that he saw Salter ride by again. This time, the sheriff reined in at the door. There was an odd look on his face as he finished tying up the reins, and turned to the ranch owner.

"Well, did you find out?" Rance asked nervously.

There was a moment of silence. Then the effort of holding it in proved too much. Mark Salter burst out laughing. He whooped with merriment.

"Hold on," Rance said sternly. "I asked you a fair question, didn't I?"

Gradually, the intensity of the Sheriff's merriment abated, though it didn't stop.

" 'Resentment at some real or fancied insult'," he quoted. "Ha-ha! 'Secret Society' Ho-ho!"

"Well, what did you find out?" Rance asked, indignantly.

The sheriff finally brought his chuckles under control.

"I did just what I said I would," he said. "I asked them and they told me." He glanced wryly at the ranch owner. "Laird," he said. "I kinda figured it was kid stuff, and it was. You'd have found out a good deal more by asking your kids what was going on . . . and so would Jud Miller. Why, your kids and Jud's, and those Injun kids from the reservation were just playin' Cowboys and Injuns . . . only the Injun kids were usin' some of the Miute tribe's old weapons they'd gotten out of storage. I got the tribal chief to promise he'd take away that old, obsolete stuff and hide it for good and all. Wouldn't surprise me if every kid on that Injun reservation was due for a good spanking tonight, Laird!"

Laird Rance smiled wryly and glanced toward the woodshed.

"Well, I reckon what's good enough for Injun kids is good enough for mine and Jud Miller's . . . tell him I said so!"

THE END K-374

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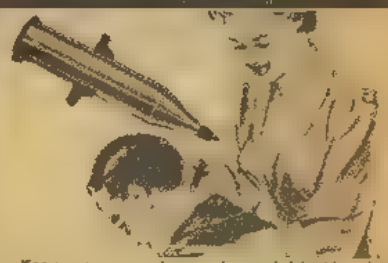

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THE LEGEND OF KID COLT... YEARS AGO KID COLT KILLED AN OUTLAW IN SELF-DEFENSE! BUT BEING YOUNG AND FOOLISH, HE FLED, INSTEAD OF STAYING TO STAND TRIAL! SINCE THEN, HE HAS SPENT HIS LIFE TRYING TO ATONE FOR HIS MISTAKE!

LOOK AT THE **SIZE** OF THAT BLACKSMITH! I SURE WOULDN'T WANNA TANGLE WITH **HIM** IN A BARE KNUCKLED FREE-FOR-ALL!

THAT HOMBRE COMIN' THIS WAY! I'LL BET A PLUGGED NICKLE IT'S NONE OTHER THAN KID COLT! I SURE COULD USE THE THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD THEY GOT POSTED FOR HIM!

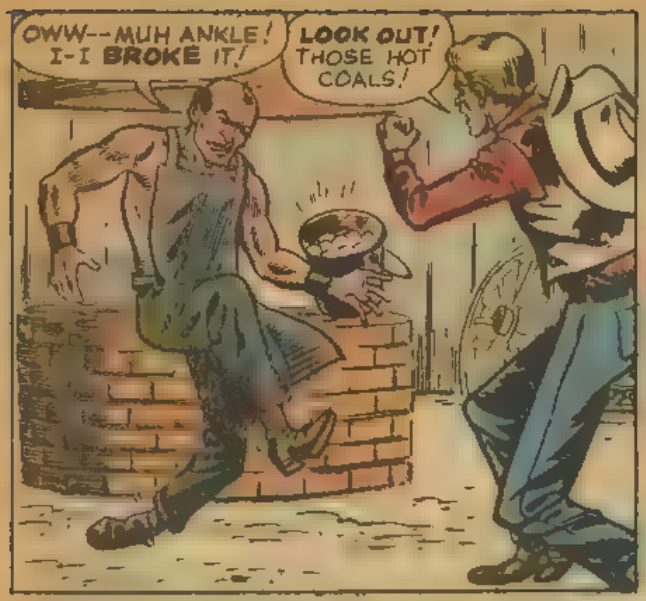
Stan Lee
JACK KELLER

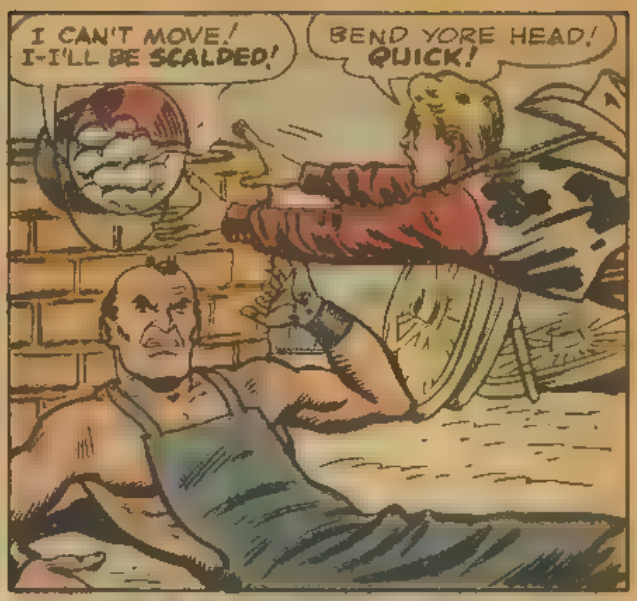
"HAND-TO-HAND!"

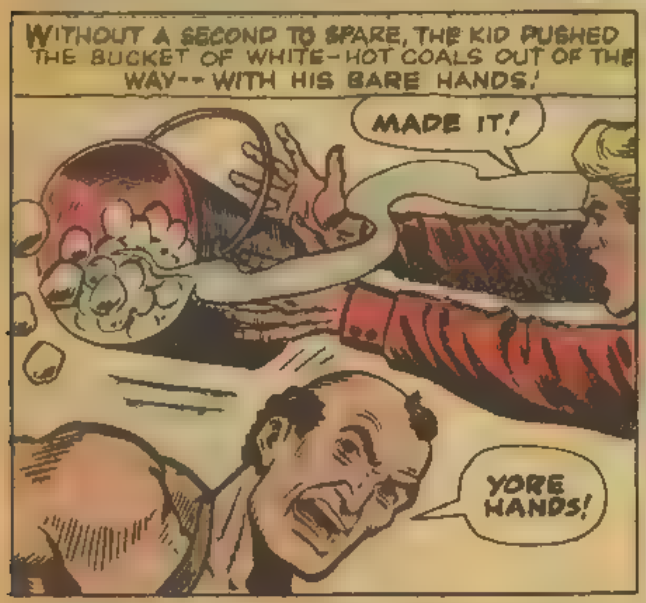
HOWDY, STRANGER! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YUH?
IT'S MUH HOSS, SMITHY! HE NEEDS A NEW SHOE ON HIS LEFT FRONT LEG!
BRING 'IM HERE-- I'LL DO IT NOW!
IT'S SUDDEN DEATH TO TACKLE THAT JASPER WHILE HE'S WEARIN THEM GUNS! I GOTTA GET THEM OFF HIM SOMEHOW!
SAY, HOMBRE, YOUR IRONS LOOK A MITE RUSTY TO ME! WANT ME TO POLISH 'EM UP A SPECK?
RECKON YUH MIGHT AS WELL WHILE I'M HERE! IT MAY BE A WHILE AFORE I'M PASSIN' THRU A TOWN AGAIN!
HERE YUH ARE, SMITHY!
I'LL BE GLAD TO TAKE 'EM, KID!
"KID"! YOU-- YOU KNOW ME!
YOU BET I DO! AND NOW, WITHOUT YOU WEARIN' THEM GUNS, THAT REWARD IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
UGH!
IT SHOULDN'T TAKE ME LONG TO MAKE YUH REAL NICE AND PEACEABLE! HAW!
WHAP!
2

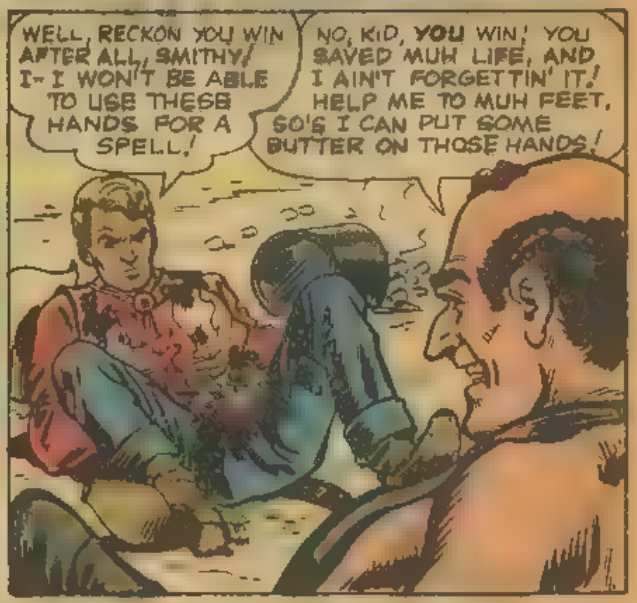
WITHOUT THEM GUNS, YOU'RE NOTHIN' BUT ANOTHER LITTLE FELLA FOR ME TO PUSH AROUND!
WHUMP!
I MAY BE SMALLER THAN YOU, MISTER, BUT NOBODY PUSHES KID COLT AROUND!
THOSE TWO PUNCHES WOULDA LAID ANY OTHER HOMBRE IN THIS TOWN OUT COLD! BUT I GOT MORE WHERE THEY CAME FROM!
LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN TAKE IT AS GOOD AS YOU DISH IT OUT!
THUD!
IT'S LIKE HITTIN' A BRICK WALL! BUT I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM BEFORE HE CAN LAND ANOTHER OF THOSE PILE-DRIVER PUNCHES!
YUH FIGHT PRETTY GOOD FOR A LITTLE FELLA.
MUSTN'T LET HIM WRAP THOSE ARMS AROUND ME OR I'M A GONER!

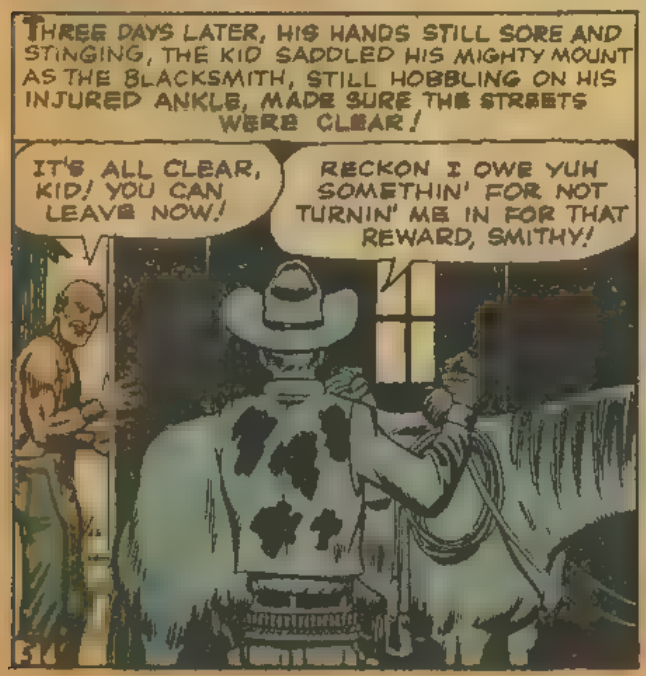
YOU'LL HAVE TO MOVE FASTER THAN THAT, SMITHY!
HOLD STILL, BLAME YUH!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL HOLD ST LL! RIGHT HERE!
OOF!
IF I COULD JUST LAY MY HANDS ON YUH--
I-I CAN'T TAKE THIS K NDA PUNISHMENT MUCH LONGER! HE'S AS STRONG AS A BUL!
HAH! GOT YUH!
UGH!
NOW GIVE UP, IF YUH KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YUH!
IF I KNEW WHAT--UGH--WAS GOOD FOR ME, I WOULDN'T -GASP- BE AN OWLHOOT TODAY!
THERE!
OOOF!
4

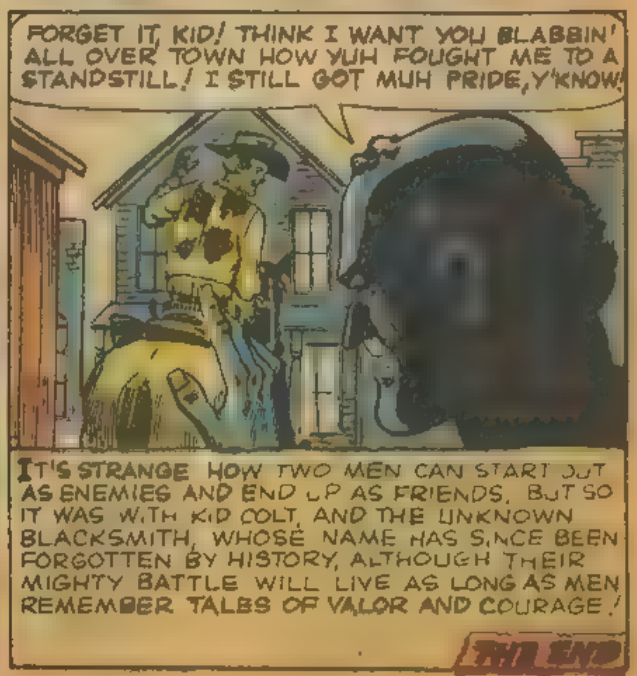

OWW--MUH ANKLE! I-I BROKE IT!
LOOK OUT! THOSE HOT COALS!


I CAN'T MOVE! I-I'LL BE SCALDED!
BEND YORE HEAD! QUICK!


WITHOUT A SECOND TO SPARE, THE KID PUSHED THE BUCKET OF WHITE-HOT COALS OUT OF THE WAY-- WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
MADE IT!
YORE HANDS!


WELL, RECKON YOU WIN AFTER ALL, SMITHY! I-I WON'T BE ABLE TO USE THESE HANDS FOR A SPELL!
NO, KID, YOU WIN! YOU SAVED MUH LIFE, AND I AIN'T FORGETTIN' IT! HELP ME TO MUH FEET, SO'S I CAN PUT SOME BUTTER ON THOSE HANDS!


THREE DAYS LATER, HIS HANDS STILL SORE AND STINGING, THE KID SADDLED HIS MIGHTY MOUNT AS THE BLACKSMITH, STILL HOBBLING ON HIS INJURED ANKLE, MADE SURE THE STREETS WERE CLEAR!
IT'S ALL CLEAR, KID! YOU CAN LEAVE NOW!
RECKON I OWE YUH SOMETHIN' FOR NOT TURNIN' ME IN FOR THAT REWARD, SMITHY!


FORGET IT, KID! THINK I WANT YOU BLABBIN' ALL OVER TOWN HOW YUH FOUGHT ME TO A STANDSTILL! I STILL GOT MUH PRIDE, Y'KNOW!
IT'S STRANGE HOW TWO MEN CAN START OUT AS ENEMIES AND END UP AS FRIENDS. BUT SO IT WAS WITH KID COLT, AND THE UNKNOWN BLACKSMITH, WHOSE NAME HAS SINCE BEEN FORGOTTEN BY HISTORY, ALTHOUGH THEIR MIGHTY BATTLE WILL LIVE AS LONG AS MEN REMEMBER TALES OF VALOR AND COURAGE!
THE END

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